

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of an Office Action dated October 26, 2007. In this response, Applicants have cancelled claims 1 and 2 without prejudice or disclaimer in order to permit allowable subject matter to issue without further delay. Following entry of these amendments, claims 5-7 are pending in the application.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the PTO's indication, on page 3 of the Office Action, that claims 5-7 have been allowed.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 2 of the Office Action, the PTO has rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0079962A to Kanechika *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent 5,383,354 to Doris *et al.* While Applicants traverse this rejection, in order to permit allowable subject matter to issue without further delay, Applicants have cancelled claims 1 and 2 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the outstanding rejection under §103 is now moot.

CONCLUSION


Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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